

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A sling for attaching or carrying loads, comprising:

a tubular hollow tube like fabric comprising two ends, one end being formed narrower or ~~approximately of equal size~~ and the other end being formed broader or of equal size relative to the rest of the tubular hollow tube like fabric, which is found between the ends, wherein the two ends form a connection site wherein the narrower end is inserted into the broader end, and

at least one seam, which connects both ends of the hollow tube like fabric at the connection site, ~~wherein the connection site, for a prescribed strength, is thinner, shorter, or narrower than if the two ends were overlapped.~~

2. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein ~~on upper and lower surfaces, the two ends form~~ the connection site with a thickness that is 50% thinner, and with a smaller transition of the two ends than is the case with overlapping if the two ends were overlapped.

3. (Previously Presented) A sling according to claim 1, wherein at the connection site the two ends are sewn together.

4. (Withdrawn) A sling according to claim 1, wherein at the connection site, the one end is a tube and the other end is an inelastic, a partially elastic, or an elastic band, and the two ends are sewn together.
5. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the hollow tube like ~~tubular~~ fabric, at at least one other site, comprises a cross-section that is narrower relative to the remaining ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric.
6. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the hollow tube like ~~tubular~~ fabric comprises at at least one site a band and at at least one site a cord and the sites are aligned in random sequence next to each other and the ends are connected by insertion.
7. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric comprises drawstrings that lie freely within the ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric.
8. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 7, wherein the ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric is elastic and the drawstrings are inelastic, or wherein the ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric is inelastic and the drawstrings are elastic.
9. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 5, wherein the ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric, in the narrow cross-section, comprises a cord.
10. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the ~~tubular~~ hollow tube like fabric is comprised of a combination of materials that are distinct with

respect to elasticity, expansion behavior, resistance to being cut, resistance to tearing and resistance to abrasion.

11. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the tubular hollow tube like fabric is comprised of a combination of fibers of Dyeema, Kevlar, aramide, polyester and polyamide.

12. (Previously Presented) A sling according to claim 1 configured for use in the sport of climbing.

13. (Previously Presented) A sling according to claim 1 configured for use as a climbing sling or a stopping sling in the area of occupational safety.

14. (Previously Presented) A sling according to claim 1 configured for use with a ski pole or for a ski and snowboard binding.

15. (Previously Presented) A sling according to claim 1 configured for use as a knapsack support belt.

16. (Currently Amended) A sling for attaching or carrying loads, consisting of:  
a tubular tube like fabric consisting of two ends, one end being formed narrower ~~or approximately of equal size~~ and the other end being formed broader ~~or of equal size~~ relative to the rest of the tubular tube like fabric, which is found between the ends, wherein the two ends form a connection site wherein the narrower end is inserted into the broader end, and

a seam, which connects both ends at the connection site, ~~wherein the connection site, for a prescribed strength, is thinner, shorter, or narrower than if the two ends were overlapped.~~

17. (New) The sling according to claim 1, wherein the connection site, for a prescribed strength, is thinner, shorter or narrower.

18. (New) The sling according to claim 16, wherein the connection site, for a prescribed strength, is thinner, shorter or narrower.